quantity of coffee exported during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-01 along with its unit price is given below:

Year	Quantity (in tonnes)	Unit Value (Rs/tonne)
1999-2000	2,44,744	77,642
2000-01*	1,94,055	58,488

*Provisional based on export permits issued upto 14.2.2001

WTO Proposals on Agriculture

573. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'Northern India Patrika' of December 5, 2000, captioned "No compromise on fiscal sovereignty";

(b) whether the Chief Minister of U.P. has expressed his desire before a News Agency to draw common strategy to face WTO threat; and

(c) whether Government would make public these provisions of WTO which have been approved and is likely to adversely affect India's agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the captioned news item, the Chief Minister of U.P. is reported to have told the news agency, UNI, that he was considering convening a meeting of the northern agrarian States to evolve a common strategy to meet the challenges of the provisions of the World Trade Organisation.

(c) WTO provides a predictable Rule based multilateral trading system which protects the developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed trading partners. Being a fully democratic organisation, with equal voting rights to each member, India is assured of a say in the multilateral Rule making process. WTO also

has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members. By virtue of being a member of WTO, India is automatically entitled to get the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment from all other members for its exports. However, consequent to a ruling of the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO, India is obliged to remove its quantitative restrictions (QRs) as were being maintained on Balance of Payment grounds. In accordance with this decision, the balance of QRs on 715 tariff lines are to be phased out by 1.4.2001. Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group to assess the impact of removal of Quantitative Restrictions and suggest corrective measures. India in its negotiating proposals submitted to WTO for the ongoing negotiations has demanded the creation of a "Food Security Box" to take care of its food security and livelihood concerns and has *inter-alia*, sought flexibility for taking domestic policy measures for poverty alleviation, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture and has also demanded that developing countries should be allowed to maintain appropriate levels of tariff bindings keeping in mind their developmental needs and high distortions prevalent in the international markets so as to protect livelihood of its large population dependent on agriculture.

Lowering of Import Tariff on Foreign Liquor

574. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representative of domestic liquor companies met Commerce Secretary in November, 2000 and pleaded that import tariff on foreign liquor brands and concentrates may not be lowered from the present level of 210 per cent;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the foreign liquor companies are pressurizing Government to lower down the import tariff;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what other steps are being taken by Government to safeguard the interest of domestic industry?